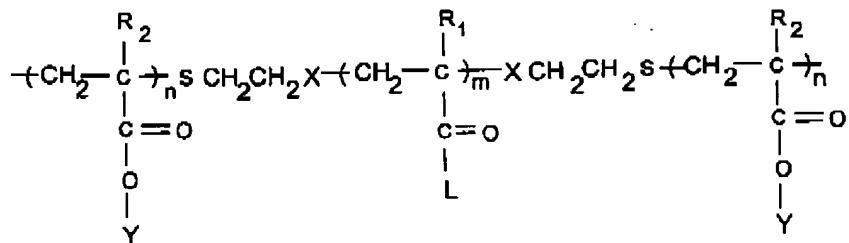


S/N 10/697,970

In the Abstract

Please replace the paragraph in the Abstract beginning on page 27, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to tri-block copolymers of molecular weight ranging between 2,000 Daltons to ~~2,00,000~~ 200,000 Daltons having formula (1), having extraordinarily high binding strength,



Formula (1)

wherein,

R_1 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; R_2 is H, CH_3 , C_2H_5 , or C_6H_5 ; X is an ester or amide linkage; m is ranging from 3 to 500; n is ranging from 2 to 50; L is OH, NH_2 , OCH_3 , or $\text{NHCH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$; Y is N-Acetyl Glucosamine, mannose, galactose, sialic acid, fructose, ribulose, erythrose, xylulose, psicose, sorbose, tagatose, glucopyranose, fructofuranose, deoxyribose, galactosamine, sucrose, lactose, isomaltose, maltose, cellobiose, cellulose, or amylose, a simple and effective process for the preparation of the tri-block copolymers of formula (1), and a method of preventing and/or treating microbial infections, wherein the said method comprises steps of exposing the microbe to the tri-block copolymer of formula 1, and thereafter, binding of the polymer to the microbe inhibits the microbial infection.--